

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA  
MISSOULA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

DONALD LEROY RICKARDS,

Defendant.

CR 13–12–M–DLC

ORDER

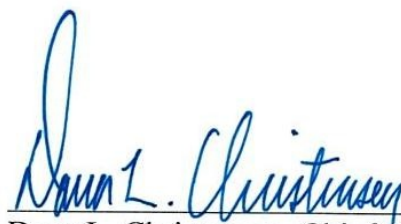
United States Magistrate Judge Jeremiah C. Lynch entered Findings and Recommendation in this matter on July 18, 2013. Neither party objected and therefore they are not entitled to de novo review of the record. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); United States v. Reyna-Tapia, 328 F.3d 1114, 1121 (9th Cir. 2003). This Court will review the Findings and Recommendation for clear error. McDonnell Douglas Corp. v. Commodore Bus. Mach., Inc., 656 F.2d 1309, 1313 (9th Cir. 1981). Clear error exists if the Court is left with a “definite and firm conviction that a mistake has been committed.” United States v. Syrax, 235 F.3d 422, 427 (9th Cir. 2000).

Judge Lynch recommended this Court accept Donald Leroy Rickards' guilty plea after Rickards appeared before him pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11, and entered his plea of guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and 846, as set forth in Count I of the Indictment. In exchange for Defendant's plea, the United States has agreed to dismiss Count II of the Indictment.

I find no clear error in Judge Lynch's Findings and Recommendation (doc. 60), and I adopt them in full, including the recommendation to defer acceptance of the Plea Agreement until sentencing when the Court will have reviewed the Plea Agreement and Presentence Investigation Report.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that Donald Leroy Rickards' motion to change plea (doc. 37) is GRANTED.

DATED this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2013.



Dana L. Christensen, Chief District Judge  
United States District Court